MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Military nursing is a profession where total devotion to patient care is absolutely essential and marriage, with its commitments, makes it difficult for nurses to function in the military, especially in field conditions. Due to shortages in the Nursing Cadre in the past measures were taken since Jan. 1968, to retain nursing officers in service even after marriage if their performance of duties was satisfactory. This was achieved by granting them extensions in service for two years at a time. These shortages have been brought down now; hence, the existing policy was reviewed. In the interests of functional efficiency the services of only those married nurses whose performance is not satisfactory are now being terminated.

(c) No, Sir. In the last one year 45 nurses were not granted extensions in service due to their insatisfactory record. 16 of them have gone to Court and obtained stay orders. The final orders of the Court are awaited. Government maintains that the present policy, which permits retention of married nurses in service only if their performance is satisfactory in terms of laid down criteria, is in the interests of the particular needs of the armed forces.

Amassing of troops by Pakistan on Indian borders

497. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Newstime (Hyderabad) dated the 14th October, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Pakistan has been amassing its troops in Rajasthan—Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir borders;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps have since been taken to meet the situation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news item. No unusual concentration of Pakistani troops in Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir has, however come to notice.

(c) Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Clearance of Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project

498. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since given investment clearance to Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project, if so, what issues were taken into consideration while giving the clearance;

(b) whether environmental and rehabilitation factors have been taken into account by the Planning Commission, if so, what are the commitments given by the Government of Gujarat for these purposes;

(c) by when the Project will be completed and what will be the estimated cost; and

(d) whether the Planning Commission has estimated the total benefit to be accrued from this Project including that of drinking water supply?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir, the investment clearance of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat was issued on 5-10-1988 taking into account its techno-economic viability as well as fulfilment of conditions laid down by the Ministry of Environment & Forest *vide* their OM